

IDENTITY OF *GERRIS* (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA) SPECIES FROM PLEISTOCENE ASPHALT DEPOSITS AT MCKITTRICK, CALIFORNIA¹

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The late Dr. W.D. Pierce of the Los Angeles County Museum (LACM) studied the Pleistocene fossil insects from the asphalt deposits at McKittrick and LaBrea, California. He found "a species of *Gerris*" at McKittrick (Pierce 1947). He speculated that the site at which the *Gerris* fragments were found was covered by standing water during a considerable period of the year because most insect remains are of aquatic and semi-aquatic insect families (Pierce 1947).

Dr. E.C. Wilson and LACM kindly arranged a loan of the *Gerris* fragments Pierce had deposited there. No legs or antennae are among the fragments. The fragments consist of: 1 head, 5 pronota, 2 thoraces, 5 thoraces each with 1 or 2 abdominal segments attached, (3 of these include wing fragments and indicate that the specimens were long winged), and 1 thorax + complete abdomen including external female genitalia. The fragments were taken from a depth of 4 feet at Site 4 of the McKittrick location (LACM collection label).

It is unfortunate that the only external genital segments in the lot of fragments belong to a female. The connexival spines are curved strongly dorsad. The fragment would seem to belong on the basis of locality and form either to *Gerris incognitus* Drake and Hottes or *Gerris gillettei* Lethierry and Severin (Drake and Harris 1934), species difficult to separate on the basis of females alone (Drake and Harris 1928). Callahan (1974) has observed behavioral differences between these two extant species. She also demonstrated that *G. gillettei* females are pale ventrally, while those of *G. incognitus* are dark. The abdominal fragment at hand is dark and would seem to represent *G. incognitus* Drake and Hottes. Regrettably, one cannot extrapolate from this bit of information and conclude that by association all fragments

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represent *G. incognitus* for the two species in question often overlap (Callahan 1974).

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LITERATURE CITED

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- Drake, C.J. and H.M. Harris. 1928. Concerning some North American water-striders with descriptions of three new species. Ohio J. Sci. 28: 269-276.
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

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The following Opinions (listed by number) have been published recently by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (see Bulletin Zoological Nomenclature Volume 34, part 3, November, 1977).

- Opinion No. 1093 (p.143) *Apis rotundata* Fabricius, 1787 (Insecta: Hymenoptera): designation under the plenary powers of a neotype.
- Opinion No. 1094 (p.147) Refusal of request to correct the following on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:—
- No. 61 GYROPIDAE Kellog, 1896 (Insecta: Mallophaga)
 - No. 139 PYRALIDAE Latreille, 1809 (Insecta: Lepidoptera)
 - No. 199 EPISEMIDAE Guenee, 1852 (Insecta: Lepidoptera)
 - No. 324 TRINOTONIDAE Eichler, 1941 (Insecta: Mallophaga)
- Opinion No. 1096 (p.155) *Pseudnura longicornis*, Sjostedt, 1920 (Insecta: Orthoptera): designation under plenary powers.
- Opinion No. 1099 (p.164) *Drosophila mercatorum* Patterson & Wheeler, 1942 (Insecta, Diptera) conservation of;
- Drosophila carinata* Grimshaw, 1901, suppression of.

The Commission cannot supply separates of Opinions.